

PERRY BARR
URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1902,

BY

JAS. RICHMOND, M.A., M.D. (OXON.), D.P.H., (CANTAB.)

Medical Officer of Health.

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TO THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
PERRY BARR.

133, SOHO HILL, HANDSWORTH,
BIRMINGHAM,

January 21st, 1903.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present to you my Annual
Report for the year ending December 31st, 1902.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RICHMOND.



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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
PERRY BARR, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD, FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1902.

RATEABLE VALUE, OCTOBER, 1902.—Land, £9,807 4s. 0d.;
Houses, £12,900 15s. 0d.

AREA, BOUNDARIES, AND GEOLOGY.—The area of the District is 4,033 acres. It is bounded on the south by the Urban District of Handsworth; on the west by the County Borough of West Bromwich; on the north by the Rural District of Walsall; and on the east by the County Boundary, where it touches the Borough of Sutton Coldfield and the Urban District of Erdington, in Warwickshire. The surface is undulated, and the height above the sea level varies from 500 feet at the extreme north to 316 feet at the southern extremity. The natural drainage is towards the River Tame at its southern boundary. The sub-soil is sand or gravel of varying thickness overlying the New Red Sandstone, which is broken up by many faults.

POPULATION.—Census 1861—1,061 inhabitants.

„	1871—1,683	„
„	1881—1,349	„
„	1891—2,310	„
„	1901—2,348	„
	Estimated 1902—2,360	„

At the census of 1901 there were 2,348 inhabitants, 1,139 males and 1,209 females, occupying 419 houses, each house being occupied by 5·6 persons on an average. There were 420 separate families; 183 of the houses contained less than five rooms. Twenty-two houses were unoccupied, and two new houses were in process of erection. The density of population was 1·7 persons per acre.

The houses are scattered over the district singly or in small groups, except in the neighbourhood of the colliery, where upwards of 170 cottages are collected. About three-fifths of the population are dependent upon the colliery, the remainder being private residents or persons engaged in agriculture.

At the census of 1901, the numbers of males and females at the following ages in the whole district were:—

Ages.	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	13-	14-	15-	25-	65 & over	Total.
Male ...	29	37	24	33	45	144	68	25	28	215	460	31	1,139
Female ...	34	24	31	28	36	171	104	36	37	216	451	38	1,209
Totals ...	63	61	55	61	81	315	172	61	65	431	914	69	2,348

an enumeration in November, 1902, made by Mr. Gammell, your Surveyor, the numbers of persons at corresponding ages in that part of your district usually called the “Colliery Village,” were:—

Ages ..	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	13-	14-	15-	25-	65 and upwards	Total.
Males ...	11	7	17	14	24	66	44	7	12	93	182	1	478
Females	19	22	19	13	14	68	33	7	11	55	172	4	437
Totals ...	30	29	36	27	38	134	77	14	23	148	354	5	915

BIRTHS.—During the year 76 births were registered, 34 male and 38 female, giving a birth-rate of 30·6 per thousand.

DEATHS.—During the year 39 deaths were registered, 11 of which were those of persons not belonging to the district, viz.: 12 at the Aston Manor Infectious Hospital, two persons who did not reside in the district were drowned in the canal, one outsider was killed on the highway, and one non-resident was accidentally killed at the colliery. Four deaths occurred during the year among the Perry Barr inmates of the Workhouse, and one

died in the Isolation Hospital at West Bromwich. This should not be considered a Perry Barr case, as the child came into the district already infected with scarlet fever. The deaths belonging to the district numbered, therefore, 27, 18 being male and 9 female, giving a death-rate of 11·4 per 1,000. This differs from the figures in Table 1, because in that table the definition of a “non-resident” is different. For statistical purposes, Table 1 is suitable for comparison between the statistics of two districts, and will be adopted in this report.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 8 deaths of infants under twelve months old, giving a mortality of 118 per 1,000 births. The causes of death were: whooping cough, a preventable cause, in one case; one death was due to acute lung disease, three were due to atrophy and debility, two were due to prematurity, and one to congenital defect.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—One death was due to whooping cough and three to scarlet fever, the rate per 1,000 being 1·7.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.—One.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.—One death was due to consumption. The rate was 0·42 per 1,000.

In the following table the Birth and Death-rates of 1902 are compared with those of the four antecedent five-yearly periods:—

	1881-5	1886-90	1891-5	1896-1900	1901	1902
Birth-rate per 1,000 ...	27·0	29·6	29·5	30·3	30·6	28·8
Death-rate per 1,000 ...	10·3	13·7	13·6	13·3	19·9	13·4
Epidemic Death-rate } per 1,000 } ...	0·8	2·1	1·8	2·1	3·44	1·7
Deaths under 1 year } per 1,000 Births } ...	130	200	143	146	237	118

The following table gives the number of deaths and the death-rate per 1,000 of the population from different classes of disease, shewing how the death-rate is made up.

	No. OF DEATHS, 1902.	DEATH-RATE PER 1,000.							
		1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895
TOTAL	32	13·4	19·7	18·4	12·3	10·6	14·0	11·1	14·9
Deaths from—									
Epidemic diseases ...	4	1·7	3·44	4·1	1·2	2·3	1·9	1·1	1·2
Tubercular diseases ...	1	0·4	0·85	0·4	1·9	1·1	1·9	1·1	3·1
Diseases of the } nervous system }	3	1·3	0·85	2·3	0·8	1·5	0·75	0·0	1·5
Diseases of the heart, etc.	1	0·4	0·85	0·4	1·5	0·7	0·75	0·4	0·4
Diseases of the lungs, etc.	5	2·1	4·70	3·2	1·2	1·9	1·5	2·3	1·9
Premature birth ...	2	0·8	0·85	0·4	0·8	0·4	1·14	0·8	1·2
Atrophy, etc. ...	3	1·3	1·27	0·4	0·4	0·0	1·5	0·8	0·8
Violence ...	8	3·4	0·85	0·4	0·0	1·1	0·75	1·9	0·4
All other causes ...	5	2·1	6·00	6·4	4·6	1·5	3·8	2·7	4·4

The death-rate was lower than it was in 1901, mainly by the lower mortality from the seven principal epidemic diseases, from diseases of the lungs, and from all causes. On the other hand, deaths from violence were increased, and included two deaths from carbonic oxide poisoning in the coal mine, two other accidental deaths in the coal mine, two cases of drowning (one suicidal, in the Trent Valley canal), a death from an accident on the highway, and a death of a child from accidental burning. Coroner's inquests were held in eight cases.

CANCER OR MALIGNANT DISEASE.—Cancer caused two deaths in 1902, giving a rate of 0·85.

Of the 8 persons who were over 65 at the time of death 5 died at the following ages, viz., 79, 79, 80, 85, and 91 respectively.

Thus of the 32 deaths 11 were those of children under 5 years of age [see Table IV. at the end] and 5 those of persons over 75 years of age.

ADMINISTRATION.

(1) REFUSE DISPOSAL.—Fæcal matters and ashes are mostly deposited in privy middens, to be afterwards used as manure on fields and gardens. Waste water is allowed to run over the surface of neighbouring fields and gardens either directly or through dumb-wells.

If provision be made for keeping the rain-water out of these dumb-wells, and cleaning them periodically, no nuisance need arise.

(2) WATER SUPPLY.—The Birmingham water is supplied to 84 houses, 178 houses have well-water from 85 wells, 10 of which are draw-wells. The great majority of the pump-wells were inefficiently protected against surface pollution, and several were in dangerous proximity to offensive privies. By conversion of the draw-wells into pump-wells protected against surface pollution in the manner mentioned in my annual report for 1895, a fairly good water may be obtained, but those who wish for a trustworthy supply must either have the Birmingham water or spend a considerable sum of money on the old wells.

(3) MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, which came into operation in February, 1890, there were notified during the year 42 cases, viz., scarlatina, 33 cases; diphtheria, 5 cases; and erysipelas, 4 cases.

SCARLATINA.—The thirty-three cases of scarlatina arose in twenty-three houses, and thirteen cases were isolated in the hospital: one in the Aston Hospital. In each of two houses

four cases arose; four houses had two cases each. The first case notified on March 5th, a little girl, who had come from Woolwich on February 28th, fell ill on March 2nd, had the rash on March 3rd, and died in the hospital on March 24th. The second case arose in a house infected at the beginning of December, 1901, when occupied by a different family; disinfection had been done. The third case seemed to be infected from the second. On June 22nd the fourth case arose, the first in the Colliery Village, and cases followed until twenty-seven cases were notified as occurring in the Colliery Village. As soon as a case of scarlet fever or any other infectious disease arises, the women seem to delight in going to the infected house and, though often cautioned against running into danger of infection, they return when one's back is turned.

DIPHTHERIA.—Five cases were notified. Two only were examined bacteriologically, with positive results in both cases. In one case the water-closet inside a villa was in an ill-ventilated room, the soil-pipe being inside the house. In the other case there was no sanitary defect apparent in the cottage. The other three cases occurred in connection with the outbreak of scarlatina in the Colliery Village. No bacteriological examination was made in these cases.

ERYSIPELAS.—The four cases call for no particular comment.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOT NOTIFIABLE.

A few cases of measles and whooping cough occurred at the beginning of the year.

(4) OTHER SANITARY WORK.—During the year 376 inspections were made, and 55 nuisances were abated.

Fourteen lots of infected bedding were stoved, and fourteen houses were disinfected after Infectious Disease.

Four new houses have been built during the year.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department
during the year ending December 31st, 1902, in the Urban Sanitary District of
Perry Barr.

					Observations and Inspections made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling- houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	...	...	...		
		Structural Defects	...	...	1		1
		Over-crowding	...	...	161		2
		Unfit for Habitation	...	...			
		Lodging-houses	...	...			
		Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	3		
		Cowsheds	...	...	2		2
		Bakehouses	...	...			
		Slaughter-houses	...	...			
		Canal Boats	...	...			
House Drainage.	{	Ashpits and Privies	...	...	194		35
		Deposits of Refuse & Manure	...	...	1	1	1
		Water Closets	...	...			
	{	Defective Traps	...	...			
		No Disconnection	...	...			
		Other Faults	...	...	14		14
		Water Supply	...	...			
		Pigsties	...	...			
		Animals improperly kept	...	...			
		Offensive Trades	...	...			
		Smoke Nuisances	...	...			
		Other Nuisances	...	...			
TOTALS ...					376	1	55

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances'
Department during the year ending December 31st, 1902, in the
Urban Sanitary District of Perry Barr (continued).

						NOS.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	...	...	—
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...	...	—

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	...	...	...	...	14
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	14
Schools ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	—
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease					—
Convictions ditto ditto					—
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions ditto ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	—

Dated 19th January, 1903.

(Signed) H. HATCH GAMMELL,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.
URBAN DISTRICT OF PERRY BARR.
VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1902 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Popula- tion esti- mated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
				DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.					Num- ber.	Rate.*
		Num- ber.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Num- ber.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892	2360	55	23·3	8	145	34	14·4	6	6		28	11·8
1893	2465	81	32·8	9	111	34	13·8	4	4		30	12·1
1894	2500	73	29·2	12	164	43	17·2	6	6	2	39	15·9
1895	2540	70	27·5	13	185	44	17·3	6	6		38	14·9
1896	2600	91	35·6	15	154	42	16·1	13	13		29	11·1
1897	2630	74	29·1	13	176	45	17·1	8	8		37	14·0
1898	2650	94	35·5	7	74	26	9·8	3	3	5	28	10·6
1899	2600	76	29·2	11	145	33	12·7	2	2	1	32	12·3
1900	2176	73	33·6	13	178	43	19·8	6	6	3	40	18·4
1901	2350	72	30·6	17	237	54	23·0	10	10	3	46	19·9
Averages for years 1892-1901.	2487	76	30·6	12	155	40	16·1	6·4	6·4	1·4	34·7	14·1
1902	2360	68	28·8	8	118	39	18·7	12	12	5	32	13·4

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10, and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums.

Area of district in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4,033.

Total population at all ages	...	...	2348	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	419	
Average number of persons per house	...	...	5·6	

TABLE III.

URBAN DISTRICT OF PERRY BARR.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ...								
Cholera ...								
Diphtheria ...	5		1	1	1	2		
Membranous croup								
Erysipelas ...	4		1			3		
Scarlet fever ...	33	2	15	15	1			13
Typhus fever ...								
Typhoid fever ...								
Relapsing fever ...								
Continued fever ...								
Puerperal fever ...								
Plague ...								
TOTALS ...	42	2	17	16	2	5		13

TABLE IV.
 URBAN DISTRICT OF PERRY BARR.
 CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-Pox								
Measles								
Scarlet fever	3		1	2				12
Whooping-cough ...	1	1						
Diphtheria and membranous croup								
Croup								
Fever {								
Typhus								
Enteric								
Other cont'd								
Epidemic influenza ..								
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa								
Enteritis								
Puerperal fever ...								
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases								
Phthisis	1				1			
Other tubercular diseases								
Cancer, malignant disease								
Total carried forward	5	1	1	2	1			12

TABLE IV.—(*Continued*).
 URBAN DISTRICT OF PERRY BARR.
 CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1901.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Brought forward ...	5	1	1	2	1			12
Bronchitis ...	2	1					1	
Pneumonia ...	3		1			2		
Pleurisy ...								
Other diseases of Respiratory organs								
Alcoholism ...								
Cirrhosis of liver }								
Venereal diseases ...								
Premature birth ...	2	2						
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...								
Heart diseases ...	1					1		
Accidents ...	7		1		2	3	1	
Suicides ...	1					1		
.....								
.....								
.....								
.....								
.....								
Uncertified ...	1						1	
All other causes ...	10	4				1	5	
All causes (total) ...	32	8	3	2	3	8	8	12

